



# Hello, Hamilton County

Quote of the week: "Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way." — Booker T. Washington

## Hamilton County participates in Ohio's 200th Birthday Celebration

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Commissioner Todd Portune is pictured with Hamilton County's birthday card which was designed by Jay Springer.

The Ohio Bicentennial Commission will begin celebrating Ohio's 200th birthday on March 1, 2003. The eight-month-long celebration will provide an opportunity for Ohioans to experience first hand the many accomplishments achieved over the last two hundred years. Counties, community and civic organizations have an opportunity to be represented in the celebration and to tell their story.

The Bicentennial Commission has planned celebration activities which preserve the heritage of Ohio, and embrace its future. These celebrations are intended to be both fun and educational.

Hamilton County will participate in the Statehood Day Ceremony, on March 1, 2003, in Chillicothe, Ohio. On display in Chillicothe will be Hamilton County's birthday greeting card designed by Jay Springer. Eric Stuckey will represent Hamilton County in the "Parade of Flags" which will begin at noon at Yocotangee Park and proceed to the Ross County Courthouse steps. The emblem of our new flag is shown in the upper left corner of this newsletter.

For information about the March 1 celebration, contact Sharon Booker, 946.4428.

## 4-H Celebrates 100th Birthday

4-H celebrated its 100th birthday in 2002, with celebrations held throughout the state, including Hamilton County.

4-H was originally conceived by A. B. Graham as an educational opportunity for youth who live on farms. 4-H Youth Development today remembers the past, but looks to the future. It is active in urban areas too.

In Hamilton County, our past is a great foundation, and youth participate in annual livestock shows at the County Fair, displaying projects covering over 200 subjects. Community service is

also a tradition in 4-H.

In looking to the future, our 4-H Youth Development Program works with youth in schools throughout Hamilton County. Programs are presented on such topics as air science, home safety, and nutrition.

We take pride in knowing that the Hamilton County school enrichment program ranks 4th out of 88 counties in the state of Ohio, and reaches over 6,000 students annually.

Volunteers are the backbone of the 4-H program and in 2003, volunteers

will donate over 2,000 hours to our youth.

If you would like more information on how you can volunteer for 4-H, and how your children can be involved in the Youth Development program in Hamilton County, please call Keebler Holley, 513.946.8996.



## ICMA's What Works

ICMA's *What Works 2002 Case Studies* recently highlighted two Hamilton County departments. Kudos go to:

**County Facilities  
Response Time for  
Emergency Repair Requests**

**County Purchasing  
Nonconstruction Purchases  
per Central Purchasing  
Office Full-Time Equivalent**

We congratulate Ralph Linne, Director of County Facilities and his staff and Amy Hoh, Hamilton County's Purchasing Director and her staff for their innovations and national recognition.

## Thursday's Child – Adoption and Foster Care

**Call 513.632.6366 for information**



**Ashley – dob 04/22/93**

The minute you meet Ashley, you will be entranced by her sweet smile!

Ashley is a quiet girl, who can play with others, or entertain herself with puzzles or her favorite books. Drawing and coloring are also two of Ashley's talents. Riding her bike, swinging, and jumping rope show her athletic ability, but she really shines in gymnastics! She loves to walk on her hands and do the splits.

Ashley does well in school.

If you want to see that special smile, buy her a Happy Meal with a double cheeseburger!

It's important for Ashley to keep in touch with her siblings.

Ashley needs a loving, supportive family to call her own.

Call 632.6366 today, and inquire about Ashley.

## Secretary Tom Ridge visits Cincinnati

Secretary Tom Ridge, US Department of Homeland Security spoke on February 19, 2003, at the American Red Cross building. Key points from Secretary Ridge's speech include:

- Terrorists force us to make choices. We can choose to be afraid or choose to be ready. We will not be afraid. And, we will be ready.
- All Americans are asked to prepare a survival kit and have a family com-

munication plan.

- Look for TV, print and radio ads. Stay informed.
- Visit the U.S. Department of Homeland Security web site at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or call 800-Be-Ready (800.237.3239)

You may also contact Don Maccarone, Director of the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency, for information.

## The Impact of National Trends on Hamilton County's Future

On March 6, 2003, the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (HCRPC) will release a report entitled, "External Influences: The Impact of National Trends on Hamilton County's Future." The report, identified in a study commissioned by the Fannie Mae Foundation, summarizes ten trends that a panel of 149 urban scholars think will affect American cities over the next 50 years, and how these trends may affect Hamilton County particularly.

The report is an important com-

ponent of Community COMPASS, Hamilton County's comprehensive plan, since the identified national trends significantly affect the County's Vision (Goals and Objectives) recently adopted by the HCRPC.

The report concludes with the results of a local study in which 25 local experts identified and ranked the top ten influences that would affect Hamilton County over the next 50 years. Influences identified include "Disparities in Education Quality," "Weakening of the Urban Core," and "The New Economy."

## Amy Hoh, Purchasing Director, Chosen to Chair Statewide User Group

In January 2000, Hamilton County became a user of Demandstar software, an innovative online tool for requesting quotes and distributing bid opportunities to vendors. As statewide usage of Demandstar increased, there was a need for the formation of a user group. Amy Hoh, County Purchasing Director and a Certified Public Purchasing Officer, has been selected to serve as the chairperson for this statewide group. The users will meet quarterly to ex-

change ideas and suggestions related to Demandstar and to share good and bad experiences.

As the Ohio representative, Amy will also serve on the National Demandstar Advisory Board taking the concerns of Ohio users to a national forum.

If you would like to know more about the user group, please contact Amy at 946.4314 or [amy.hoh@hamilton-co.org](mailto:amy.hoh@hamilton-co.org). *Congratulations, Amy!*

## Great American Ball Park Update

Workers continue to make notable progress on all areas of Great American Ball Park. Currently being installed are:

- Maple lockers, 4 x 7 x 3, as well as a shower area, which includes a sauna for mental and physical relaxation.
- Rubber flooring for the weight room and a sprint track. The weight room will feature equipment for resistance and cardiovascular training and the indoor sprint track for

speed and endurance.

- A submersible treadmill with underwater jets to enhance strength and mobility.
- Press box with tiered seating and individual locker and storage areas.
- Glazed photos, from the Reds archives, above the walls leading to the terrace level suites.

For more information contact Barnard Baker, 564.0700.

## Interested in a Marathon?

In answer to questions from our February 5 issue, which County employee has participated in the Boston Marathon? **Gary Berger, Hamilton County Personnel Director, 1982 and 2001.** Which County employee will participate in the Boston Marathon? **Rebecca Groppe, Hamilton County Recorder, 2003.** The two are pictured in Rebecca's office admiring her medals.

Interested in a local marathon? Check out The Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon. It's an exciting event that brings lots of people into Hamilton County and shows our community at its best. The fifth running of the marathon will be on Sunday, May 4, 2003.

To run, volunteer, or cheer on the runners, check out the event's web site for more information: [www.flyingpigmarathon.com](http://www.flyingpigmarathon.com).



## Job and Family Services and Taylor High School

Hamilton County foster children will have a gift to help ease the pain of leaving home, thanks to art students at Taylor High School.

The students are designing and decorating duffel bags and suitcases that will be donated to Hamilton County Job and Family Services (JFS). The agency's workers will give the bags to children who have to be removed from home.

"Too often, these children face the added indignity of having to carry their belongings in garbage bags," said Laurie Petrie, JFS spokesperson.

Art teacher, Allison Pulskamp, received a grant from the Martha Holding Jennings Foundation to purchase

more than 100 duffel bags and art supplies. The students in her Mixed Media class and in fellow art teacher, Mary Ann Ditullio's Graphic Design class have been painting the bags with eye-catching colors and images designed to appeal to children of all ages. Finished bags are on display in the school.

Before designing the bags, the students learned about the difficulties of foster care by reading the autobiography of David Pelzer. A fellow student also talked about her experiences in foster care.

The project is a part of a "Poverty Awareness" program for Three Rivers School District faculty. At any point in time, about 2,000 Hamilton County children live with relatives or in foster



care. Most of these children eventually return to their families after they and their parents receive services designed to reduce the safety risk. Others may stay in foster care for longer periods of time or become available for adoption. (See *Thursday's Child* on page 2 of this issue.)

If you are interested in contributing new duffel bags, contact Kathy Pflum at 946.2189.

## Make Your 'Home Safe Home'

Some things are not meant to be thrown in the garbage or dumped down the drain. While most of us know that antifreeze, cleaners and solvents should not be left at the curb, it can be a challenge to properly dispose of these items.

The Solid Waste Management District has planned four Household Hazardous Material (HHM) Collection Events this year to make this task quick and easy. The free events are

scheduled 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as follows:

- April 26—Bayer Corporation in Addyston
- May 3—Ethicon Endo-Surgery in Blue Ash
- October 18—Winton Woods High School in Forest Park
- October 25—Coney Island in Anderson Township

If these collection events do not fit your schedule, a newly updated copy of the HHM Handbook will help you locate places to dispose of common items.

For a copy of this free guide, or if you are interested in participating in the collection events, please call the HHM hotline at 946.7700, or visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org).



Please remember to print and post *Hello, Hamilton County* in your areas so that everyone can see what's going on!

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed to this issue.

**Hello, Hamilton County** is published twice monthly on the County's web page. It is intended to inform both Hamilton County residents and staff. If you have questions or suggestions for future editions, please contact Sharon Booker (946.4428) or Peter Hames (946.4432) in the County Administrator's office.